Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1   1 (Previously Presented). A distributed method for processing auction
2   traffic using one or more servers at a plurality of nodes in a distributed
3   processing system comprising the steps of:
4   using a computer implemented current local winner determination
5   method at each of the nodes to identify loser bids and candidate winning
6   bids; and
7   using a computer implemented current global winner determination
8   method to determine from the candidate winning bids from each of the
9   nodes a current set of winners.

1   2 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the auction is an open-cry
2   auction.

1   3 (Previously Presented). A distributed method for processing open-cry
2   auction traffic using one or more servers at a plurality of nodes in a
3   distributed processing system comprising the steps of:
4   using a current local winner determination method at each of the
5   nodes to identify loser bids and candidate winning bids, wherein the
6   current local winner determination method comprises the steps of:
7   (a) receiving a new bid(v,q) at a node, where v denotes the price per
8   unit and q denotes the quantity desired;
9   (b) checking to see if the new bid ranks in the top $\lfloor N/q \rfloor$ bids, in
10   terms of price/unit bid value, amongst all the bids asking for
11   quantity q whose information is available to this process,
12   where N is a number of copies of a single item on sale and
13                $\lfloor x \rfloor$ stands for the greatest integer less than or equal to x;
14   (c) taking the new bid along with the set of $\lfloor N/q \rfloor$ bids that have
15   been processed and determining a new set of top $\lfloor N/q \rfloor$ bids;

16   (d) determining if bid(v,q) is in the top $\lfloor N/q \rfloor$ bids and, if it is not,

17   declaring it a loser bid, but if so, declaring it a candidate

18   bid; and

19   using a current global winner determination method to determine

20   from the candidate winning bids from each of the nodes a current set of

21   winners.

1   4 (Original). The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

2   holding the candidate bid at the node for a time, τ; and

3   if by time τ, through an arrival of another bid, a candidate bid loses

4   its position amongst the top $\lfloor N/q \rfloor$ highest bids, declaring the bid a loser

5   bid;

6   otherwise, declaring the bid a winner candidate and making the bid

7   accessible for further processing by the current global winner

8   determination method.

9   5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 4, wherein the current

10   global winner determination method comprises the steps of:

11   receiving new candidate winning bid from a node bid(v,q);

12   taking the candidate winning bid along with the set of all bids that

13   have been processed and determining a new set of winners;

14   determining whether the new candidate bid(v,q) is a winner or a

15   loser; and

16   notifying the bidder of bid(v,q) as to whether they are a winner or

17   loser.

1   6 (Previously Presented). A distributed method for processing open-cry

2   auction traffic using one or more servers at a plurality of nodes in a

3   distributed processing system comprising the steps of:

4   using a current local winner determination method at each of the

5   nodes to identify loser bids and candidate winning bids, wherein the

6   current local winner determination method comprises the steps of:

7 (a) receiving a new bid(v,q) at a node, where v denotes the price per

8 unit and q denotes the quantity desired;

9 (b) considering a set of bids using a set of pre-specified auction

10 rules and selecting winners for auctioning N+x copies of the

11 item on sale; and

12 (c) determinating whether the bid(v,q) is a candidate winner bid;

13 and

14 using a current global winner determination method to determine

15 from the candidate winning bids from each of the nodes a current set of

16 winners.

17 7 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 6, wherein the current

18 global winner determination method comprises the steps of:

19 receiving new candidate winning bid from a node bid(v,q);

20 taking the candidate winning bid along with the set of all bids that

21 have been processed and determining a new set of winners;

22 determining whether the new candidate bid(v,q) is a winner or a

23 loser; and

24 notifying the bidder of bid(v,q) as to whether they are a winner or

25 loser.

1 8 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the auction is a descending

2 auction.

1 9 (Previously Presented). A distributed method for processing descending

2 auction traffic using one or more servers at a plurality of nodes in a

3 distributed processing system comprising the steps of:

4 using a current local winner determination method at each of the

5 nodes to identify loser bids and candidate winning bids, wherein the

6 current local winner determination method comprises the steps of:

7 (a) receiving a bid (q) for processing, where q is the quantity

8 desired at going price p;

9   (b) determinating whether the bid is in the first $\lfloor R/q \rfloor$ bids, asking

10   for quantity q at price p, where $\lfloor x \rfloor$ stands for the greatest

11   integer less than or equal to x and R is a currently remaining

12   quantity on auction;

13   (c) if the bid is in the first $\lfloor R/q \rfloor$ bids, asking for quantity q at the

14   going price p, then declaring the bid a candidate winner bid;

15   and

16   (d) making the candidate winner bid available for further

17   processing by the current global winner determination

18   method; and

19   using a current global winner determination method to determine

20 from the candidate winning bids from each of the nodes a current set of

21 winners.

1   10 (Original). The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

2   giving bids processed by the method a time stamp of arrival; and

3   determining whether the time stamp, if it exists on the bid, is

4 greater than or equal to the time stamp of any bid, asking for quantity q at

5 going price p, that has been processed by the method in the past.

1   11 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein bidders submit

2 multi-item bids and the bids may be indivisible.